

*Director's Testimony Before Senate Armed
Services Committee - On S. 758,
Second Draft - 4 April 1947* 120

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee: My appearance before your Committee this morning is in support of Section 202 of the proposed National Security Act of 1947. This section of the bill provides the United States, for the first time in our history, with a central intelligence service created by act of Congress. Our present organization, the Central Intelligence Group — which I have the privilege of heading — has been in existence since January, 1946, by authority of an Executive Directive of the President.

Since the day that the Central Intelligence Group was established, the Directors of Central Intelligence — my predecessor and I — have looked forward to the time when we could come before the Congress, and request that we be given permanent status through legislative enactment. That day has arrived. I sincerely urge adoption of this section of the bill. The United States must have an intelligence service second to none. In order to perform our share in maintaining the national security in times of peace, to be forewarned against possible acts of aggression, to be forewarned should disaster come in an atomic age, we must have full knowledge of the intentions and capabilities of the other nations and explosive areas of the world.

I know that you gentlemen understand that the nature of the intelligence work we are doing makes it impossible for me to talk freely on the record regarding our